

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 IO-13 /057 W

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R 151315Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2209

NEA FOR JAMESON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: BOUTEFLIKA AND UNGA

REF: STATE 220057

1. I ASKED DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS HADJ AZZOUT ON SEPT 12 ABOUT STORY IN AUGUST 27 ISSUE OF MARCHES TROPICAUX. HE SAID IT WAS IDIOTIC. COLOMBO DEBATE ON SAHARA HAD TAKEN PLACE IN DRAFTING COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD BEEN ADDRESSED ON SUBJECT BY RAHHAL, AMBASSADOR TO UK LAKHDAR BRAHIMI, AND HIMSELF. ALL OF THEM WERE ON TEAM AND EACH SPOKE FOR GOA. BOUTEFLIKA HAD NOT BEEN THERE BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN OTHER, HIGHER LEVEL MEETINGS.

2. WHILE FOREGOING EXPLAINS WHY BOUTEFLIKA DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN GOA'S SAHARA EFFORT AT COLOMBO, IT DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR HIS REMARK, AS REPORTED BY JAY KATZEN, THAT THIS EFFORT WAS MISTAKE. RUMOR MILL FREQUENTLY OPENS BOUTEFLIKA'S COMMITMENT TO SAHARA CAUSE TO QUESTION, AND IT WAS HE WHO NEGOTIATED ABORTIVE DEAL WITH MOROCCANS IN JULY OF 1975. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WAS APPARENTLY BOUTEFLIKA WHO GOT OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS TO PASS PRO-ALGERIAN SAHARA RESOLUTION AT PORT LOUIS (ALTHOUGH HE LOST OUT AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL), AND APART FROM REMARK
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REPORTED BY KATZEN, THERE IS NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE

THAT HE IS AT ODDS WITH BOUMEDIENE ON THIS OR ANY OTHER
ISSUE. INDEED, IN CONTRAST TO A YEAR AGO, HE IS
PLAYING ACTIVE ROLE IN RUNNING FOREIGN MINISTRY AND
THERE IS EVEN A RUMOR THAT HE WILL BE ALGERIA'S
FIRST PRIME MINISTER UNDER NEW CONSTITUTION.

THIS SUGGESTS THAT HE IS NUMBER TWO MAN IN REGIME

AND MOST DEFINITELY IN BOUMEDIENE'S GOOD GRACES.

3. SEE OUR ALGIERS 2192 RE STRATEGY WE EXPECT
ALGERIANS TO FOLLOW AT NEW YORK AND OUR ALGIERS 2202
RE ATTENDANCE BY BOUTEFLIKA. WE WILL BE INTERESTED
IN VIBRATIONS FROM USUN ABOUT ROLE HE PLAYS.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER02209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760349-0304
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760960/aaaabzbg.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 220057
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JECT: BOUTEFLIKA AND UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, SS, AG, UNGA, (BOUTEFLIKA, ABDELAZIZ), (AZZOUT, HADJ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006